



# RiceTec

## Planting Progress Report

May 8, 2020



### RT - Region One

#### *Northeast Arkansas & Southeast Missouri*

The calendar says that it is May 8, 2020 but it seems more like a repeat of 2019..... or worse. We are in a viscous cycle of rain every 3-4 days; it will almost get dry enough to get back in the field then rain again. We estimate that we are approaching 50% planted and around 25% emerged but there has been very little planting progress made over the last two weeks due to continuous rain. The earliest planted rice has been really slow to emerge with the cool and wet conditions but the warmer weather earlier this week seems to have perked that rice up some. The warmer weather was short lived with lows forecasted in the low 40's and a frost advisory in the Northern most area of the Region. Hopefully we can catch a break in the weather soon and finish out this rice crop. We don't need a lot of time to get back on track we just need it to dry out! We are still in an acceptable planting window where excellent yields can be achieved when planting RiceTec hybrids. As always, stay safe out there and let us know how we can help.

### RT – Region Two

#### *Central & East Arkansas*

We had a good run over the past few days before rains brought everything to a screeching halt. Our region's rainfall ranged from  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to  $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " which will help with emergence and residual herbicide activation. Growers are

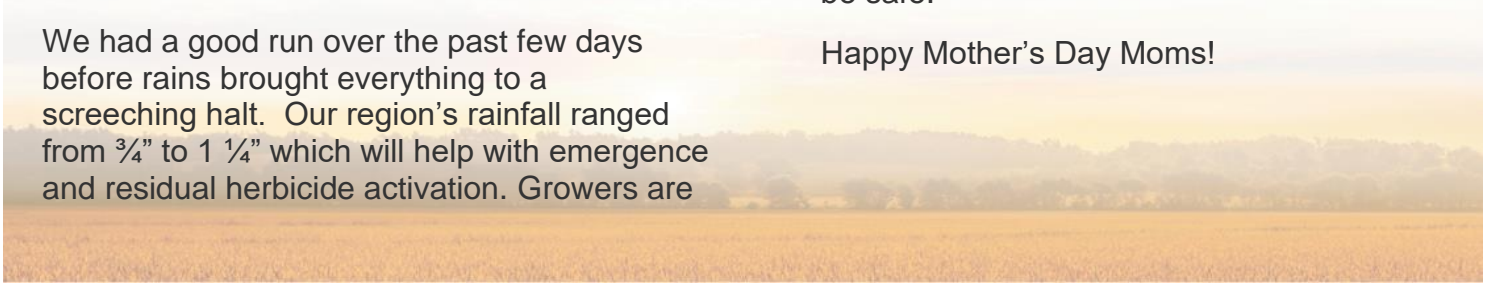
telling us they will spend some time celebrating Mother's Day and will hit it hard Monday trying to get as much in the ground before the next rain.

We estimate our area at 65% planted and approximately 30% emerged with very few replants or stand concerns to date. We have had some issues where rice was water-seeded but those are somewhat expected. Taking into consideration the weather rollercoaster of warm to cool and wet to rapidly drying conditions, the crop appears to be doing fairly well despite our later than normal start.

We are seeing additional orders for RiceTec hybrid that's going on ground initially intended for corn or medium grain rice. With that being said, we have a decent amount of RiceTec hybrid seed remaining for those who would like to add some acres or run a little short; so contact either your local service partner or one of our local sales managers and let us help with your needs. Also remember that we still have a limited amount of FullPage, Clearfield, and conventional hybrid levee seed available as well.

Thank you for your business and continue to be safe.

Happy Mother's Day Moms!



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## RT – Region Three

### *South Arkansas and Mississippi*

Wow! What a difference a week makes! We finally got a window of dry weather that allowed for very significant progress to be made in getting this rice crop in the ground. Growers quickly went from about 30% planted in the Region at the end of last week (5/1) to approximately 72% planted this week. A dry Fall in 2019 allowed many to get field work accomplished after harvest and have fields ready to plant this Spring. This has been very significant as up until this week, planting has been done mainly between frequent rains. With most ground ready to plant, growers were able to cover a good bit of acreage in a short period of time. A widespread rain is falling across the Region this morning (5/8) ahead of a cold front that will stop grain drills for a bit, but it is widely considered to be a welcomed rain. This will allow for activation of herbicides and a softening of crusts that had developed with windy conditions we had most of the week. About 25% of the planted crop has emerged and looks to be in good shape stand wise. As a comparison, this same week in 2019 showed the Region to be about 65-70% planted so we aren't as far behind as we initially thought. Planting date research trials show hybrids planted at this calendar date

historically have very good yield potential, so we still have plenty of time to get the rest of this crop planted without sacrificing yield. Stay safe and let us know if we can help with anything at all!

## RT – Region Four

### *Texas*

The rice crop across the Texas Gulf Coast is really starting to shape up. We have had some favorable weather over the past couple of weeks allowing most of the later fields to be planted and the earlier blocks going to flood. I would guess that we are close to 99% planted and 98% emerged, with a majority of the remaining acres to be planted being produced organically. I mentioned this in my last update, but with a lot of fields going to flood, don't forget our fertility recommendations of 90 units N on coarse soils and 120 units N on fine soils to dry ground just prior to establishing your permanent flood. This recommendation does not count any pre-flood or early season nitrogen applications. The hybrid crop needs all this nitrogen just prior to establishing the permanent flood in order to maximize yield potential. All three of our District 14 large scale field trials are looking good currently with two already under permanent flood. Over-all, we are off to a good start in the Texas Gulf Coast.

### *SE Texas & SW Louisiana*

We are 95% planted and 95% emerged. Planting was still underway until this recent rain event Tuesday (5/5). Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana received about an inch of rain which has caused some chaotic scheduling of fertilizer and herbicide applications this week. The crop is off to its



RT7321 FP Lissie, TX at Flood

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best start in years because of the dry sunny spring so far. Some challenges in the district include Chinch bug pressure that has been high on small rice in parts of Jeff Davis and Allen parishes. RiceTec recommends applying 75-80% (90-120 units N/a) of your urea fertilizer on dry ground in-front of the flood on your hybrid rice. The flood must be maintained for a minimum of 3 weeks to maximize N use efficiency. An additional 30-60 units of N/a should be applied at early boot to boot split to aid with grain fill and second crop health. Yield potential looks very strong on all the test plots and RFYT's which have now been fertilized and put into permanent flood. Hopefully we will be cleared in the following weeks to come together for some field meetings this June. Stay safe out there and celebrate your freedom and liberties every day!

## Central and NE Louisiana

A much-needed dry spell enabled many farmers to get planted in North Louisiana this week. That will push the northern half of the state to 80% planted over-all. In Central Louisiana, the rice has gone through a delay stage with very little movement caused by the unseasonably cool nighttime temperatures. Some of the early planted rice is approaching green ring, while some of the later planted rice is going to permanent flood. Many farmers are laying poly pipe and applying nitrogen on Central Louisiana row rice. A rain would be very welcome to help loosen the hard crust to allow better stands from top to bottom. After this weekend, a more favorable weather trend will help growing conditions and will be beneficial to our growers.

## RT – Technical Services

Planting for the Mid-South Development group hasn't progressed much this week, mainly due to that fact a lot of the trials remaining are date sensitive. With that being said, we were able to get a lot of the ground worked for the first time in



*RT Development plots in the Gulf Coast*

2020 where the remaining test that aren't date sensitive will be planted, so the next dry spell planting should kick back off. A lot of our trials that have been planted are emerging and developing into what looks to be good stands. Early 1-2 leaf treatment applications should start going out next week in a few of the herbicide tolerance trials.

Technical Service Gulf Coast has been able to flood up a few more trials this week with 43% set to permanent flood. We plan to have a few more trials treated and flooded by the middle of next week. We have been very lucky with small rain events periodically and warm temperatures. This had allowed the rice to grow vigorously and all trials are looking very good. We also plan to have our final Plant Date trial planted next week. all

Commercial Progress		
State	% Planted	% Emerged
Missouri	67%	25%
Arkansas	59%	28%
Mississippi	75%	20%
Louisiana	90%	87%
Texas	99%	98%